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ALMAZAN REPORTED PLANNING REVOLT BY END OF MARCH

Nazis and Other Foreigners in Mexico's Maze of Intrigue

The Hour's correspondent in Mexico City reports that General Almazan is planning a revolt against the Mexican Government before the presidential elections, set in that country for July, can take place. According to the report, Almazan's followers in all the states of Mexico have received secret instructions to complete military and political preparations for an uprising not later than the end of March.

The Federal officials of Mexico, taking a serious view of the situation, are ordering extensive measures to uncover the links of the rebels' conspiracy. Large caches of arms are found almost weekly. This work is known, however, to be handicapped by the sabotaging activity of Almazan's men in high places of the military and civil administration.

One of the largest caches was recently found in Cuetzala de Progreso, on the estate of Senor Eligio Apatiga, a close friend and party associate of Almazan's. This cache contained 30 machine-guns, 1,000 rifles and 1,000,000 rounds of ammunition. A similar depot of arms, belonging to an Almazan group, was seized at Tlacotepec, whereupon Almazan's partisans retaliated by shooting the general secretary of the Tlacotepec peasants' organization, Antonio Huerta, who was said to have been responsible for the Government's discovery of the private arsenal.

Nazis at Tlacotepec and Tampico

At Tlacotepec, one of the leading Almazanists is a former German Nazi agent, B. Walter. Although Mexico swarms with agents of the belligerent European nations, the Mexican Government seems to be lenient to them to the point of indifference.

Action against them is taken in such rare cases as the recent incident at Tampico where a German citizen, Hans Forhams, was arrested for trespassing on the premises of the Mexican Petroleum Society. Agents of the Mexican Government found Forhams in Section 21 of the



plant consisting of the refinery and shipping department. The Nazi was busily taking photographs of the interior of the oil-tanker Lestry, and it was during this act that he was arrested. The permit to enter the premises, which Forhams displayed, was found to have been forged. When questioned, Forhams declared that the camera used by him belonged to the Nazi German consul in Tampico.

Woodward's Death-Plane

Other foreigners, besides the German Nazis, seem to be involved in the Mexican maze of political intrigue. The sudden death of the American aviator, Johnny Woodward, brought to an untimely close the Mexican governmental investigation of charges against him for illegal transport of gold from Mexico to the United States. This smuggling of gold is said to have been the method used to pay for shipments of arms from the United States to the fascist counter-revolutionary groups in Mexico.

Woodward's plane crashed in Arizona, several hundred yards from the Mexican border. The owner of the plane, Clark A. Christopher, was a passenger and suffered serious injuries in the crash. Several weeks before his death, Woodward had been arrested in Hachite, New Mexico, together with Bert Farnsworth, a farmer from Sonora. The arrest was made by American officials at the request of the Mexican authorities, and, during the arrest, a number of gold bars was found in Woodward's plane. At the time of his death Woodward was under \$1,000 bail; it was also reported that he had been deprived of his U. S. license as pilot.

Farnsworth, when questioned about the source of the gold bars, claimed that Yaqui Indians had commissioned him to bring this gold to the United States for sale to the Treasury. A certain official of a New Orleans mining company had acted as the go-between in trying to arrange the sale of the gold bullion. Whether or not Farnsworth's story is true, the Mexican Government is convinced that the gold was being used by Mexico's fascists to pay for arms smuggling. The Yaqui Indians of Mexico have been used before by insurrectionist groups as a front for their own counter-revolutionary conspiracies. Mexican liberals believe that in this particular case the rebel group is part and parcel of the Almazan organization. Farnsworth is known as a friend of General Yucopicio, former governor of the state of Sonora. The latter is not only an associate of Almazan's, but has been closely linked to the Nazi Gestapo agents operating in Mexico (see The Hour for September 30, 1939, page 4).

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KLAN IN MIDWEST

The leaders of the Ku Klux Klan are planning to set up a Mid-western regional office in Cleveland, Ohio, and are holding an Ohio State conference in Cincinnati. They feed the local newspapers a series of misleading reports claiming that the Klan has discarded all of its former prejudices along racial and religious lines. Some of the newspapers print such reports in an unquestioning mood.

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CHRISTIAN FRONTISTS WANT TO KNOW WHO REPORTED ON THEM

Demand Names of The Hour's Agents

The Tablet, pro-Coughlin newspaper of Brooklyn, N. Y., makes an ingenious attempt to discover the names of those Christian Frontists who reneged and subsequently supplied The Hour and other anti-fascist publications and organizations with secret information about their former associates. The Tablet believes it was this information that at least in part aided the government in making the recent arrests of John F. Cassidy and sixteen other Christian Frontists on charges of plotting to overthrow the United States Government. In its issue of February 17 the Brooklyn paper resorts to its favorite method of attack: it prints a letter to the editor. Signed "James Leo Carey," the letter expresses indignation at the activities of The Hour, Equality, the Committee of Catholics for Human Rights, LaGuardia's Information Service on Anti-Semitism and other groups, and demands that the Federal government investigate these "sources of its information." The author of the letter guesses that the first-hand sources of such information are "the dissidents and dissatisfied who would do anything in their desire for revenge upon the Frontists who sized them up for what they were and gave them the Frontists' Mickey-Finn return of membership card." Since the Frontists are not sure as to precisely who of these ex-Frontists supplied the information, Carey of the Tablet pleads sarcastically: "Surely these great citizens who have rendered such an invaluable heroic service to their fellow citizens must not be afflicted with a passion for anonymity." He then insists that the Federal government should investigate the information sources of The Hour, Equality, LaGuardia's Committee and other groups "if the government will fight its case against the members of the Sports Club (Christian Front in Brooklyn) on the basis of the information furnished by these public spirited citizens and organizations." In the process, the Christian Front and Father Coughlin would obtain the dearly desired data on the men and methods which The Hour and others "employ for obtaining information."

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BUND EXPLAINS ITS "SEVERE CASUALTIES" BY "FAULTY WARPAINT"

Rest and Reorganization to "Fight Again"

An interesting insight on how the Nazis in America feel about their present-day fortunes in this country is provided by the following few phrases in the Bund's organ, The Free American and Deutscher Weckruf und Beobachter, for February 15, page 8:

All is quiet on the West Coast front of the Bund. This inactivity has led to all kinds of questions and suspicions. However, the reason is very natural and can be easily explained: The Bund's casualties were rather severe lately as a result of faulty warpaint, and consequently the whole structure is receiving a new coat of

paint and a fresh set of honorable intentions. ... Furthermore, the Bund has deserved a good rest and should for once be able to lean back and watch the aurora borealis of Americanism change forms and colors almost daily. ... When the thunder storm breaks, the Bund will fight again...

The above is a quotation from the Bund's special correspondence from Los Angeles, but it is clear that the statement applies to the entire national policy of America's Nazis.

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HAMBURG PROPAGANDIST SLANDERS NEGROES

From Hamburg to various American addresses comes unsolicited the latest, February, propaganda letter in English (mimeographed) issued by D.F.B. Informations-Zentrale and signed by Th. Kessemeyer, director of Deutscher Fichte-Bund (for our previous report on this Nazi propaganda unit see The Hour for November 25, 1939). One of the features of this letter is the Nazis' attack on the Negro race. The Nazi propagandist chides the French imperialists for bringing Negro troops to fight in World War II, but in the course of the criticism derides not only the French imperialists but also the Negroes themselves, saying that Negroes cannot "accomplish anything in a modern technical war," because these Negroes cannot think and therefore "these masses of colored soldiers are nothing but good enough to stop the bullets." To appeal to the anti-Negro prejudices of certain groups of Americans, the Nazi propagandist says that white women are "pestered by the French colored troops." He then quotes an anonymous Swede as follows: "In some places the colored soldiers are most impertinent towards white women. One is shivering when seeing the endless files of uncivilized Negroes marching along in French towns!"

This evidence of hatred for Negroes contradicts the Nazis' previous endeavors to recruit American Negroes as their dupes. The Nazi effort to spread anti-Semitic propaganda among the Negroes of New York and other American cities was described in The Hour of October 21, 1939 (page 3, "Negro Issue Used by Fascists").

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ANTI-LYNCH BILL READY FOR MAIN BATTLE

From Washington, D. C., comes word that final hearings on the Wagner-Van Nuys-Capper Federal Anti-Lynching bill will be held on Tuesday, March 5. Foes of the bill are expected to make one of their last efforts at the hearings, which are being arranged by the Senate Judiciary Committee chairmanned by Senator Frederick Van Nuys of Indiana. The foes of the bill are headed by Senator Tom Connally of Texas. Following the hearings, the bill will be reported out to the Senate, on the floor of which the main battle will then begin.

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MICHAEL SAYERS

NAZI PROPAGANDA AND THE BALANCE OF POWER

A Dresden Nazi party-leader once wrote to the industrialist, Fritsche, "Of course there are catch-words like 'Down with Capitalism!' etc.; but these are unquestionably necessary... We must talk the language of the embittered socialist workmen."

Today, while Dr. Robert Ley, Nazi boss of the so-called Labor Front, plunders the vocabulary of the German workingclass with the same avidity with which he formerly plundered its unions and benefit societies, Field Marshal Hermann Goering, as "Economics Dictator," assumes the job of assuaging the fears of the German Nazi billionaires. Goering, also a "billionaire" (albeit selfmade), is in a position to placate the disgruntled Nazi magnates, whose disrelish of the "socialist" aspects of National Socialism has enormously increased since the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact. Goering, the "White Hope" of certain gentlemen in London and Paris, explains what all this Marxist talk is about.

Modern warfare necessitates vast popular armies composed mainly of workers. The chief emphasis in Nazi propaganda is therefore now placed on appeals to the workers. The Nazis hope this will not only "please" the German soldiers but may have the effect of "neutralizing" the radical French army. In addition, explains Goering, it will have the effect of confusing the anti-Nazi Red-influenced workers' organizations everywhere. Thus the Nazis talk "the language of the embittered socialist workmen."

Of course, a close collaboration exists today between Germany and the Soviet Union. It is an economic collaboration which has already profited Germany sufficiently to convince the Allied High Command that the present "attrition tactics" can no longer be relied on to bring about a collapse of the Nazi war-machine. However, the Nazi-Soviet Pact is not a political collaboration, in spite of Dr. Ley's efforts to make it appear so, for the simple reason that all the political concessions (in the Baltic States, in Poland, in the Far East) have been made by Germany at considerable expense to herself alone.

In this connection it must be remembered that the Weimar Republic found close economic relations with the Soviet Union quite compatible with intense antagonism to Communism at home. Italian economic friendship with the Soviet Union survived the Rome-Berlin Axis and the Anti-Comintern Pact. The relations between Germany and the Soviet Union may grow into political collaboration, but, at this stage, to identify the two powers is as useful to Herr Hitler as the propagandist identification of America with Britain is useful to Mr. Chamberlain. The astute leader of British policy is fully aware of this, and while he encourages the latter identification, he remains extremely cautious about the former.

Information from Moscow states that the Nazi-Soviet agreement will be continued unless the "information tour" of Mr. Sumner Welles should result in the return of Germany to the status she enjoyed at the time of Munich. Although this is unlikely, other abrupt turnabouts are still possible in European alignments, even to the extreme of a sudden resuscitation of "collective security." Nazi Germany, it is clear, is fighting for her existence as the European Empire. To grant Germany this hegemony would be tantamount to suicide on the part of the Anglo-French imperial combination. It is war to death. Yet, whether or not the rival Empires can fight it out without committing mutual suicide, whether they might not still reconsider and arrive at some new and less dangerous relationship, are questions now forced into prominence by the independent existence of two other great economic units, dissimilar politically but alike in certain economic aspects, namely, the USSR and the USA. The balance of power is slipping from the hands of the Germans and the British: this is the key to world politics today.

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